



Pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.02, notice is hereby given to the members of the TUCSON PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION and to the general public that the TUCSON PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION will hold the following meeting which will be open to the public:

Wednesday, January 27, 2016  
3:30 p.m.  
Tucson Parks and Recreation Administration  
Mesquite Room  
900 South Randolph Way  
Tucson, Arizona

## MINUTES

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Altamirano at 3:31 p.m. Parks and Recreation Director Fred Gray announced that Michelle Crow, Ward 3 representative, had resigned from the Tucson Parks and Recreation Commission.

Those present and absent were:

**Present:**

Vice Chair Andrea Altamirano, Ward 1 Representative  
Commissioner Kendall Kroesen, Ward 4 Representative  
Commissioner Willie Blake, Ward 5 Representative  
Commissioner Bob Kovitz, Ward 6

**Absent:**

Commissioner Si Schorr, Mayor Representative  
Chair Caroline Grey-Ganz, Ward 2 Representative

**Staff Present:**

Fred Gray, Tucson Parks & Recreation  
Mike Hayes, Tucson Parks & Recreation  
Jane Duarte, Tucson Parks & Recreation  
Peg Weber, Tucson Parks & Recreation  
Sierra Davenport, Tucson Parks & Recreation  
Debby Keenan, Tucson Parks & Recreation

**Other:**

Allison Lombard, Constituent  
Mike McLain, Constituent  
Mike Sanderson, Constituent  
Frank Bender, Constituent  
Anne Cooper, Constituent  
Billy Slote, Constituent  
Phyllis Slote, Constituent  
Marie R. Gowin, Constituent  
Liz Shallenberger, Constituent  
Becky Pallack, *Arizona Daily Star*

2. Approval of Minutes – December 2, 2015

**Motion was made by Commissioner Blake, duly seconded by Commissioner Kovitz, to approve the December 2, 2015, minutes as written. Motion carried by a voice vote of 4-0 (Chair Grey-Ganz and Commissioner Schorr absent).**

3. Call to the Audience

*At this time, any member of the public is allowed to address the Committee. Speakers are limited to three (3) minute presentations. Pursuant to the Arizona Open Meeting Law, individual Committee members may ask that the matter be placed on a future agenda, or respond to criticism made by speakers. However, the Committee may not discuss or take legal action on matters raised during "call to the audience".*

No one spoke.

4. Reports / Announcements

a. Parks and Recreation Commissioners

Commissioner Kroesen reported that the Tucson Birding Trail Map was completed. He also distributed a flyer with details for the "Tucson Meet Your Birds" event on Saturday, February 13, 2016, and that the new birding trail map will be available at that event.

b. Staff (distributed in meeting packet)

No additional information was provided.

c. Director

Director Gray announced that in response to a budget-related retirement incentive approved by Mayor and Council that was presented to City employees, there were 17 Parks and Recreation employees who have indicated they were retiring on February 5. He added that Peg Weber, Parks & Recreation Administrator, and Jane Duarte, Capital Planning & Development Manager were included in the group retiring on the 5<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Duarte reported that the FY 2017 Capital Planning Budget had been submitted and thanked the Commissioners for all their help and support. Mrs. Weber announced that Ms. AJ Rico was the new West Park District Superintendent and Mrs. Weber also thanked the Commissioners for allowing her to serve them. The Commissioners gave Mrs. Duarte and Mrs. Weber a round of applause for their outstanding service.

5. Reid Park Miko's Dog Park Discussion – Signage Related to Dog Size

Director Gray stated that at the last meeting the Commissioners requested an agenda item regarding dog size issues at Miko's Dog Park. He stated that the rules and regulations the City has regarding dog parks are fairly systematic and fairly standard with other dog parks rules and regulations nationally and are in compliance with the City's Risk Management directives from a liability perspective. Mr. Mike Hayes, Parks and Recreation Deputy Director, stated that the P&R department was recently made aware of issues at the Reid Park dog park related to dog size. He referred to the City of Tucson Parks and Recreation policy on "Off Leash Dog Areas (Dog Parks)" that was included in the meeting packet. He said originally most dog parks included a single area, but now there are five dual area dog parks that have a weight limit of 30 lbs., and signs were posted to reflect that policy. He continued the National Recreation and Parks Association referred him to the Michigan State University College of Law for information regarding "Model Laws and Rules, Model State Law Modifications to Allow for Dog Parks and Off-Leash Areas, Sec. 12, Dog parks may be divided into large and small-dog sections [alternatively, small, medium, and large dog sections], with the difference between the sections determined by the weight of the dog, such weight to be 25, 30, or 35 pounds. Dog park rules may specify that individuals with both small and large dogs must use the large-dog area if one of the dogs fits in the large-dog category." Deputy Director Hayes stated that each local dog parks he had visited, including Pima County's Brandi Fenton Park", had similar rules regarding weight limits for dog parks with dual areas.

Commissioner Blake reported that he had visited the dog park on two separate days and witnessed clashes between the smaller and larger dogs. Deputy Director Hayes stated dog owners are required to be self-policing because the department does not have adequate staff to patrol the areas and the signage regarding weight limits was required to protect the City's liability. Director Gray added that the weight limit is an objective determination rather than a subjective determination such as behavior or age of the dog. He continued that there was no weight limit noted at the single area dog parks because the dog owners assume all responsibility and the signage at these parks reflects this.

Discussion was held regarding signage and issues related to dog size at Reid Park Miko's Dog Park. The following audience members spoke regarding the agenda item: Phyllis Slote, Mike Sanderson, Anne Cooper, Liz Shallenberger. Ms. Cooper suggested that additional signage alerting owners to the locations of the single-area dog parks be added to the dual-area dog park locations to alert them of other options. Deputy Director Hayes added that the department web site contains descriptions of each of the dog parks. Ms. Slote reported that Palo Verde Park would be an alternative for her dog, but had a concern that the ground was covered with deep decomposed granite and difficult to walk on; Deputy Director Hayes stated staff would follow up on her concern.

Following discussion, Director Gray summarized that regardless of the configuration of dual dog parks, a separation would still be required based on an objective measurement such as poundage rather age or temperament. He stated that there are other dog parks available in the city that are not separated and therefore have no poundage regulation, and the signage at these parks reflects this to eliminate liability by the City. He added that they will continue to look at suggestions for objective designs for future dog parks.

Vice Chair Altamirano stated that the directives from the City Risk Management Department were provided to protect both constituents and the City. Commissioner Kovitz added that the Director and staff have heard all the concerns and suggestions from the discussion, and in future planning, adjustments would be reviewed where possible.

6. FY 2016 Quarterly Budget Update

Director Gray provided an update on the FY 2016 quarterly budget, which reflected 50% of the fiscal year. Commissioner Kroesen inquired if there were any areas of concern. Director Gray responded not at this point, and although utilities were always high that difference should be made up in other areas.

7. Parks and Recreation System Master Plan Updates

Director Gray provided an update on the Parks and Recreation System Master Plan process that was approximately 50% complete, and results were still being tabulated from the public survey that was distributed. The 1,260 surveys returned were sufficient to meet the threshold of 1,200 necessary for the survey to be classified statistically valid. He said that a presentation would be provided to the Mayor and Council at the February 9th meeting and that a copy of the survey and the results from the entire survey would also be forwarded to the Commissioners. He added that the next step of the process would include a round of community meetings within each ward, and the Mayor and Council would be approached with the option of consolidating some of the community meetings. The Trust for Public Land organization would address issues such as added economic values, tourism, and public health benefits.

8. FY 2017 Budget Discussion

Director Gray provided an update on the FY 2017 budget process. He reported that the City Manager had made general recommendations to Mayor and Council regarding plans to develop a structurally balanced City budget through from FY 2016 through FY 2020. Part of the strategy implemented included holding vacancies and only critical positions would be filled. A retirement incentive was offered that included an additional 90 day salary package if retired by February 5th, and an insurance incentive was then added to increase the number of employees who would accept the incentive package. He said that a total of 17 Parks and Recreation employees had committed to the February 5<sup>th</sup> retirement date.

9. Mayor and Council Agenda Items

a. Future, Pending, and Adopted Agenda Items (distributed in meeting packet)

Director Gray reported that two facility use agreements were on the February 9th agenda for Mayor and Council approval: Reid Park Zoological Society office space and the Sahuaro Baja Fastpitch League in Ward 2. Budget related items included City Funding Options and Employee Retirement Incentive discussions.

10. Commission Future Agenda Items and Next Meeting Date

a. Future Agenda Items:

Parks and Recreation System Master Plan Discussion  
Tucson Parks and Recreation Commission Award Program

b. Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, February 24, 2016

No discussion was held.

c. Location:

No discussion was held.

11. Adjournment

**Motion was made by Commissioner Kovitz, duly seconded by Commissioner Blake, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried by a voice vote of 4-0 (Chair Grey-Ganz and Commissioner Schorr absent). Meeting adjourned at 4:38 p.m.**